

Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP)

photos: NRCS - Pat McGraw/Arlis Plummer



After the storm . . .

WAS IT BUILT RIGHT? -- Reviewing the plans (below) to the roadway and drainage tube behind them are left to right Kent Neumann, NRCS Resource Conservationist in Walthill, Mark Casey, Thurston County Commissioner and Road Dept. manager, and NRCS Engineer Chuck Leinen from Omaha. This was one of 18 sites repaired with EWP funds in FY 2000.



After the repairs . . .

The Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program provides technical and financial assistance to counties, natural resources districts and communities for restoring watersheds ravaged by natural disasters.

The EWP program allows damages to be repaired during or after an emergency, caused by a natural occurrence that creates a watershed impairment which threatens life or property.

Thurston & a portion of Dakota Counties experience flood damage

July rains caused flooding, road and bridge damage and severe erosion in cropland and along stream banks in Thurston county.

"Without the EWP funds (and NRCS assistance) to make immediate repairs, the problems from the flooding would have only gotten worse," said Greg Bass, SR., Winnebago Tribe.

The county and Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District requested NRCS assistance through the Emergency Watershed Protection program. A team of NRCS specialists reviewed more than 60 potential sites for assistance. Eighteen of the sites were approved for repair.

Nearly \$190,000 of the estimated \$250,000 needed for the repairs came from the EWP program. NRCS engineering services to design and oversee the repairs were in addition to the financial assistance. Seventeen of the sites are in Thurston County and one site is in Dakota County. Some of the sites were on Winnebago Tribal lands.

"We wouldn't have had the budget to make the immediate repairs or protect the areas from further damage without EWP. The cost share dollars and technical assistance are important to us. NRCS engineering design help will benefit this county," said Mark Casey, Thurston County Commissioner and Roads Department Manager.